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Panel on Home Affairs

**Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and
Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils**

**Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 19 July 2005 at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Chairman)
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Members attending** : Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
- Members absent** : Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man
- Public Officers attending** : Home Affairs Bureau
Mr Daniel SIN
Assistant Secretary (Home Affairs) (Recreation and Sport)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Kitty CHOI, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services
(Administration)

Mr Eddy YAU, JP
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)3

Mr LEE Yuk-man
Assistant Director (Libraries & Development) (Acting)

Mrs Karen YUEN
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1

Mr Peter KAN
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2

Architectural Services Department

Mr Wilson LEE
Project Director 3

Mrs Celina KWOK
Chief Project Manager 302

Attendance by invitation : Islands District Council

Ms LEE Kwai-chun
Chairlady, Community Affairs, Culture & Recreation
Committee

Mr WAN Tung-lam
Vice-Chairman, Community Affairs, Culture &
Recreation Committee

Sham Shui Po District Council

Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, MH
Chairman, Sham Shui Po District Council

Mr WAI Woon-nam
Chairman, Working Group on Markets, Street Traders
and Environmental Hygiene

Kowloon City District Council

Ir WONG Kwok-keung, JP
Chairman, Kowloon City District Council

Mr WEN Choy-bon, MH
Member

Kwun Tong District Council

Ms SO Lai-chun
Vice-Chairperson, Culture, Recreation & Sports Committee

Eastern District Council

Mr TSANG Kin-shing
Member

Ms LO Tip-chun, MH
Member

Sai Kung District Council

Mr CHEUNG Chun-hoi, MH
Member

Mr WAN Yuet-cheung
Member

Tsuen Wan District Council

Mr CHAU How-chen
Chairman, Tsuen Wan District Council

Mr CHOW Ping-tim
Member

Yuen Long District Council

Mr MAK Ip-sing
Chairman, Culture, Recreation & Sports Committee

Mr TSANG Hin-keung
Convenor, Working Group on Leisure and Recreational
Facilities for Rural Areas

Shatin District Council

Mr LAW Kwong-keung
Vice-Chairman, Culture, Sports and Community
Development Committee

Mr YIU Ka-chun
Member, Culture, Sports and Community Development
Committee

Central & Western District Council

Mr Stephen CHAN, JP
Chairman, Culture, Leisure & Social Affairs Committee

Ms CHENG Lai-king
Chairperson, Food, Environment, Hygiene & Works
Committee

Mr LAM Siu-fai
Member, Kwai Tsing District Council

Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Member, Kwai Tsing District Council

**Clerk in
attendance** : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

**Staff in
attendance** : Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Sherman WOO
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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I. Meeting with District Councils and the Administration
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2043/04-05(01) & (02) and CB(2)1436/04-05(01)]

The Chairman welcomed the representatives of 10 District Councils (DCs) and two Kwai Tsing DC members who attended the meeting in their personal capacity.

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Meeting with representatives of District Councils

2. Members noted that an updated summary of views of DCs on the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects (as at 14 July 2005) had been prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(02)(Revised)].

Islands District Council
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2138/04-05(02)]

3. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that Islands DC accepted the inclusion of the “Swimming Pool Complex Area 2, Tung Chung, Lantau” and the “District Open Space Area 18 Tung Chung Lantau” projects onto the list of the 25 priority projects. Islands DC, however, hoped that, if possible, the implementation of the two projects could be further sped up.

4. Mr Albert CHAN asked whether Islands DC accepted the present implementation schedules of the two projects. Mr WAN Tung-lam responded that although there were urgent needs for the delivery of these two projects, Islands DC noted that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was already implementing a number of LCS projects in the district. He said that Islands DC just hoped that the implementation of the two projects could be further advanced.

Sham Shui Po District Council
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2073/04-05(07)]

5. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu said that before the abolition of the former Municipal Councils (ex-MCs), there was the drawing up of five-year rolling programmes and during the process, consultation with DCs on the provision of LCS facilities was conducted on a regular basis. He considered that there was room for improvement in the present consultation process with DCs as well as in the coordination between the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and LCSD in the provision of services previously provided by ex-MCs.

6. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu and Mr WAI Woon-nam pointed out that the Tung Chau Street Complex, which had been put under further review, was urgently needed due to rapid growth in population in the reclamation area in Sham Shui Po. They expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress made by the Administration with this project and requested the Administration to take note of the comments expressed by Sham Shui Po DC in its submission on the location of the Complex.

Kowloon City District Council
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2073/04-05(03)]

7. Mr WEN Choy-bon said that Kowloon City DC was supportive of the

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“Annex Building for the Ko Shan Theatre” project (not an ex-MC project) [item no. 3 of Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)]. It hoped that the Administration could provide details of the project as soon as possible and complete it in 2009 instead of 2011.

8. Mr WEN said that Kowloon City DC also hoped that, if resources permitted, the following two ex-MC projects, which had been put under further review, could be delivered as soon as possible –

- (a) “‘LO” site at Chung Yee Street’ project [no. 454CR of Annex 2(3) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)]; and
- (b) “Lo Lung Hang Garden” project [no. 155CR of Annex 2(3) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)].

9. Mr WEN further said that as regards the “Sheung Lok Street Rest Garden (Site B), Kowloon City” (to be implemented as minor works item) and the “Chung Hau Street Garden, Kowloon City” [item no. 2 of Annex 3 to LC Paper No. CB(2)1436/04-05(01)] projects, Kowloon City DC had no strong views but just hoped that they could also be delivered as soon as possible.

Kwun Tong District Council
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2073/04-05(06)]

10. Ms SO Lai-chun said that Kwun Tong DC hoped that the commencement date for implementation of the “Recreational Facilities on Jordan Valley Former Landfill” project [item no. 9 of Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)] could be advanced to before 2008.

11. Ms SO further said that there were urgent needs for the delivery of the following projects, which had been put under further review –

- (a) the “Lam Tin North Family Leisure Centre” project [no. 120CR of Annex 2(4) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)]; and
- (b) the Lam Tin Park (Phase II) (i.e. Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill) project [no. 424CR of Annex 2(4) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)].

12. Ms SO also urged the Administration to start the renovation of the Shui Wo Street Public Library (under Phase 2 of the “Renovation of Libraries” project) as soon as possible to meet urgent needs.

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Eastern District Council

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2073/04-05(02)]

13. Ms LO Tip-chung said that Eastern DC was very concerned about whether the Administration would still proceed with the implementation of the “Proposed Park in Aldrich Bay” and the “Quarry Bay Park Phase II (Stages 2 & 3)” projects, which had been put under further review. She said that Eastern DC hoped that the Administration could provide a timetable for their implementation as soon as possible.

14. Mr Tsang Kin-shing expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of consultation with Eastern DC over such an important project like the construction of an incinerator in Cape Collinson, as recently announced by the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food. He said that the Administration had not lived up to its promise made when it abolished the ex-MCs that it would give more powers and functions to DCs in monitoring the provision of municipal services.

Sai Kung District Council

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2073/04-05(08)]

15. Mr CHEUNG Chun-hoi pointed out that “Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 44” project [item no. 23 of Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)] had been long awaited and Sai Kung DC hoped that its implementation could be advanced to start in 2008.

16. Mr WAN Yuet-cheung said that the “Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 4, Sai Kung” project [no. 306LS of Annex 2(13) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)], which was put under further review, should be implemented as there was no sports stadium but only one single open air sports ground in Sai Kung district for use by local residents.

17. In response to the Chairman, Mr CHEUNG Chun-hoi said that the summary of DCs’ views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(02)(Revised)] had reflected Sai Kung DC’s views on the other ex-MC LCS projects in Sai Kung.

Tsuen Wan District Council

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2073/04-05(12) and CB(2)2333/04-05(01)]

18. Mr CHOW Ping-tim expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects, as the Administration was obliged to provide more such facilities to meet service demands arising from population growth. He said that the priorities of the four ex-MC projects in Tsuen Wan recommended by Tsuen Wan DC were set out in the summary of DCs’ views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(02)(Revised)]. He added that Tsuen Wan DC was of the view that all the four projects should be

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implemented. Moreover, priority should be given to the “Ecological Park (Tso Kung Tam Valley Tsuen Wan)” project [item no. 25 of Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)], and its implementation should be advanced to start as soon as possible.

19. Mr CHOW further said that Tsuen Wan DC was also of the view that the implementation of the “Local Open Space Sham Tseng Area 50” project [item no. 24 of Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)] should be advanced by three to five years. He added that Tsuen Wan DC considered that the “District Open Space and Indoor Recreation Centre Area between Tsuen Wan Park and Tsuen Wan Road” and the “District Open Space Area 2 Tsuen Wan” projects [no. 252LS and 243LS respectively of Annex 2(16) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)], which had been put under further review, should also be implemented.

Yuen Long District Council
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2115/04-05(01)]

20. Mr MAK Ip-sing said that Yuen Long DC had passed a motion urging the Administration to implement all the outstanding ex-MC projects in Yuen Long in accordance with the priorities set by the Provisional Regional Council (ProRC). He said that these projects should all be proceeded with to cope with the large population growth in Yuen Long.

21. Mr MAK further said that Yuen Long DC was dissatisfied that the implementation of the “Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre” project [item no. 13 of Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)] could not be advanced and the commencement date of the implementation of the “Public Library and Indoor Recreation Centre, Area 3 Yuen Long” project was scheduled for as late as 2010. Mr MAK added that Yuen Long DC considered it inadequate that only three LCS capital works projects in Yuen Long, which were scheduled for implementation between 2008 and 2012, had been included on the list of priority projects.

22. Mr TSANG Hin-keung said that Yuen Long DC considered that the provision of LCS facilities for residents in the rural area was also very important and it was disappointing to find that none of the LCS projects which had been planned by ProRC for the rural area were included on the list of priority projects or had been scheduled for implementation. He pointed out that the “Swimming Pool Complex Kam Tin” project [no. 187 LS of Annex 2(18) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)], in particular, had long been awaited and Yuen Long DC hoped that this project could be given priority.

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Sha Tin District Council

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2073/04-05(13) and CB(2)2287/04-05(02)]

23. Mr YIU Ka-chun said that Sha Tin DC had agreed that the following three ex-MC projects, which had been put under further review, should be recommended to the Administration for priority implementation –

- (a) the “Indoor Recreation Centre-cum-Library Area 14B, Sha Tin” project [no. 024MF of Annex 2(14) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)];
- (b) the “Indoor Recreation Centre Area 24D, Sha Tin” project [no. 013LS of the same Annex]; and
- (c) the “Local Open Space Area 4C, Sha Tin” project [no. 046LS of the same Annex].

24. Mr YIU pointed out that compared with some other districts, Sha Tin had the highest ratio in terms of population to public libraries and population to sports stadiums. He urged the Administration to provide additional public libraries and sports facilities to meet the needs of Sha Tin residents.

25. Mr YIU said that Sha Tin DC had discussed and agreed on the priorities of a total of eight ex-MC LCS projects, as set out in the summary of DCs’ views [LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(02)(Revised)].

26. Mr LAW Kwong-keung said that the Administration had informed Sha Tin DC that it had already decided to borrow some Ma On Shan LCS facilities, including a sports complex and track-and-field facilities which had reached an utilisation rate of over 85%, for use by athletes in connection with the staging of the 2008 Olympic equestrian events. Sha Tin DC was, therefore, of the view that the Administration should compensate residents for the suspended use of these facilities by expediting the implementation of the ex-MC LCS projects for Sha Tin with a view to completing them by 2008.

Central & Western District Council

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2073/04-05(01) and CB(2)2348/04-05(01)]

27. Mr Stephen CHAN said that Central & Western DC (C&WDC) considered it unacceptable for the implementation of the “Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park (Phase II)” project to commence in as late as 2009 and complete in 2012. He pointed out that in 2003, the Administration had undertaken to start the construction in 2007 and to finish the construction in April 2009. He added that C&WDC had also urged the Administration to provide an indoor heated swimming pool at the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park to meet pressing needs of local residents. Ms CHENG Lai-king supplemented

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that the site for development of the “Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park (Phase II)” had been left vacant for eight years already as the Provisional Urban Council (PUC) had originally planned to start the construction in 2001.

Mr LAM Siu-fai, Kwai Tsing District Council member

28. Mr LAM Siu-fai said that while ProRC had planned to construct a sports complex in the open space in Shek Lei, the site was now planned for combined development of public housing and a sports complex. Mr LAM pointed out that Shek Lei residents were dissatisfied that the Administration had kept on finding open space in the district for building public housing and now even the open space in question was also planned for combined development of public housing and sports stadium.

Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin, Kwai Tsing District Council member

29. Mr WAN Siu-kin pointed out that the open space in Shek Lei was an isolated area which was not suitable for public housing development. He urged the Administration to provide a sports stadium there instead, in order to meet community needs.

30. Mr WAN further said that it was unacceptable that the implementation of the “Kwai Chung Park” [no. 265LS of Annex 2(11) to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)] and the “Indoor Recreation Centre Area 4 Tsing Yi” project (no. 081LS of the same Annex), which had already been delayed for 10 to 20 years, were still not scheduled for implementation. He added that it was also regrettable that the “Indoor Recreation Centre Area 9H Kwai Chung” project [no. 227LS of the same Annex] was not yet scheduled for implementation, and the implementation of the “Shek Yam Estate Phases I and IV District Open Space Development” project was scheduled for commencement in as late as 2009.

Other submissions received

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2073/04-05(04), (05), (09), (10), (11), CB(2)2138/04-05(04), CB(2)2287/04-05(01) and (03), and CB(2)2333/04-05(02)]

31. Members noted that Yau Tsim Mong DC, Wong Tai Sin DC, Kwai Tsing DC, Tuen Mun DC, North DC, Southern DC and Mr LAI Siu-tong, Kwai Tsing DC member, had also made submissions to the Subcommittee.

The Administration’s response

32. Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Administration) (DDLCS(A)) said that LCSD would make effort to enable timely delivery of the 25 priority projects. She said that funding applications for 11 priority projects and other non ex-MC projects, involving capital costs of some

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\$3 billion, had already been submitted under the current year's Resource Allocation Exercise (RAE). Funding applications for the remaining 14 priority projects would also be submitted to bid for funds under the next RAE or the one after.

33. DDLCS(A) further said that without waiting for completion of the 25 priority projects, the Administration would continue to review the 74 ex-MC projects on a regular basis in consultation with the respective DCs. She explained that the Administration would consider whether to proceed with these projects having regard to the movement of population, the changing needs of the community, the existing level of provision of LCS facilities in the respective districts and their utilisation rates. She stressed that the Administration would also take into serious account the comments received from 18 DCs on the priorities of these projects. She further pointed out that the capital costs for these 74 projects amounted to about \$10.3 billion. She explained that during the economic downturn in the past few years, the Government's allocation of resources for capital works projects, especially those which would incur substantial recurrent costs, had been very tight and this was why LCSD had been hesitant in the past about proceeding with some of the ex-MC projects.

34. DDLCS(A) said that apart from taking over the ex-MC projects which were under planning when the two MCs were dissolved in late 1999, LCSD had, at the same time, taken on those ex-MC projects which were under construction and had also initiated various new projects to meet the needs of the community. She pointed out that since its establishment in January 2000, LCSD had completed 51 projects which involved total capital costs of \$8.7 billion. At present, there were 102 projects which were either under implementation, with funding earmarked or under active planning. These included the 25 priority projects and involved total capital costs of \$8 billion.

35. DDLCS(A) further made the following initial response to the concerns raised by DC representatives –

- (a) the Administration remained committed to the continuous planning and construction of LCS facilities in various districts, and LCSD would continue to compete for funding, under the annual RAE, for implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects as well as other non ex-MC projects to meet the needs of the community;
- (b) LCSD would collaborate with FEHD in undertaking the planning for the Tung Chau Street Complex, and the alternative of providing only one sports complex there would be further explored by LCSD if necessary;

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- (c) LCSD would review the need for the implementation of the “Proposed Park in Aldrich Bay” and the “Quarry Bay Park Phase II (Stages 2 & 3)” projects having regard to the availability of LCS facilities in the vicinity;
- (d) LCSD would take note of the views expressed by Sai Kung DC on the need to implement the “Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 4, Sai Kung” project and review the priority of this project accordingly;
- (e) the implementation of the “Ecological Park (Tso Kung Tam Valley Tsuen Wan)” project would be expedited as far as possible, and the possibility of providing it by phases would be explored;
- (f) the completion date for the implementation of the “Local Open Space Sham Tseng Area 50” project had now been advanced to mid-2009 instead of late 2010;
- (g) LCSD would take into account the views expressed by Yuen Long DC regarding the importance of the provision of LCS facilities for rural areas in its review of the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects;
- (h) LCSD would strive to take forward the outstanding ex-MC projects for Sha Tin as early as possible and would take into account the views expressed by Sha Tin DC regarding the priorities of such projects;
- (i) funding application had already been made to bid funds, under the current year’s RAE, for the implementation of the “Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park (Phase II)” project, and the scope of which included the provision of an indoor heated pool; and
- (j) the comments on the plan for combined development of public housing and a sports complex in the open space in Shek Lei were noted. LCSD would continue to review the priorities of the outstanding ex-MC projects for Kwai Tsing in close consultation with Kwai Tsing DC having regard to various factors as explained in paragraph 33 above.

36. In response to concern expressed by some DC representatives on the shortfall in provision of public libraries, Assistant Director (Libraries & Development) (Acting) said that LCSD had taken various initiatives to meet high service demands, such as increasing the volume of book collections, renovation of old public libraries (including the Shui Wo Street Public Library),

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and computerisation, etc., pending the allocation of resources for provision of additional public libraries.

Implementation schedules of the 25 priority projects [Annex I to LC Paper No. CB(2)2043/04-05(01)]

37. Mr Patrick LAU pointed out that the Government allocated about \$29 billion a year for implementation of capital works projects. He asked why the Administration had not submitted funding applications for all the 25 priority projects under the current year's RAE so that their implementation could be expedited to meet urgent needs of the community.

38. DDLCS(A) responded that it was necessary for the Administration to first complete the preparation of project definition statements and the conduct of technical feasibility study, as well as consultation with the DCs concerned on the scope and detailed design of each project, before the Administration could submit applications to bid for funds under the annual RAE. She informed members that among the 11 priority projects for which funding applications had been submitted this year, four of them were actually submitted even before their technical feasibility study had been completed. She further said that before the construction works could commence, it was also necessary to arrange preparation of the detailed design and tendering documents; and launching the tendering exercise to engage a contractor to carry out the construction works.

The 74 outstanding ex-MC projects

39. Mr WONG Kwok-hing pointed out that before the abolition of the ex-MCs, funding allocations made by ex-MCs for LCS capital works projects had not been affected by the economy. He urged the Administration to expedite the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects, as this would also help create job opportunities in the construction sector.

40. Mr WONG Kwok-hing further suggested that the Administration should also draw up a five-year rolling programme which should set out the timetable for the implementation of the 74 outstanding ex-MC projects for members' consideration and comments. He said that in this way, residents concerned would not have to wait for an indefinite period of time for the implementation of these projects. He also suggested that representatives of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau should be invited to attend a meeting of the Subcommittee to join the discussion.

41. In response to the Chairman's question on the way forward of the 74 outstanding ex-MC projects, DDLCS(A) said that the Administration would review their priorities, having regard to the comments received from the respective DCs and the various factors as explained in paragraph 33 above.

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DDLCS(A) also said the Administration could at best provide a tentative timetable setting out in which year the Administration would submit funding applications for some of the 74 ex-MC projects where the needs were justified. DDLCS(A) pointed out that with the abolition of ex-MCs, funding applications for the implementation of LCS projects had to compete with many other projects of various public services for funding under the annual RAE.

42. Mr Albert CHAN considered that the delay in the implementation of the 74 outstanding ex-MC projects had actually been caused by the re-allocation of resources, originally committed for implementation of ex-MC projects, to other non ex-MC works projects implemented by LCSD, such as projects relating to the 2009 East Asian Games. He pointed out that the project of the development of the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, estimated to cost \$293.1 million in money-of-the-day prices, was such an example. He reiterated his request made at the last meeting that the Administration should provide the following information –

- (a) the ex-MCs' spending per year on LCS capital works projects for the five-year period prior to 2000; and
- (b) the Administration's spending per year on LCS capital works projects, for the five-year period after the establishment of LCSD and for the coming five years.

Admin

DDLCS(A) agreed to provide the information before the next meeting.

43. Mr Albert CHAN further said that the Government's reduction in funding allocations for LCS capital works projects could not be attributed to the economic downturn because Hong Kong people had been paying rates, which had provided funds for the implementation of LCS facilities. He added that he could not accept that funding for the implementation of the 74 outstanding ex-MC projects had to be bid under the annual RAE, as such a process would certainly cause serious delay to their implementation.

44. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung considered that as the Administration had undertaken that it would, after the abolition of ex-MCs, provide the same level of standard of services as that provided by the ex-MCs, it should implement the outstanding ex-MC projects as soon as possible not just to meet community needs but also to create jobs for the construction sector.

Further questions and comments raised by DC representatives and the Administration's response

45. Mr TAM Kwok-kiu of Sham Shui Po DC said that the Administration had a responsibility to provide the LCS facilities which the ex-MCs had undertaken to provide. He considered that it was unacceptable for the

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Administration to attribute the delay in the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects to the central mechanism for resource allocation. Referring to the Administration's response in paragraph 35(b) above, Mr TAM requested the Administration to provide a concrete timetable for the implementation of the "Tung Chau Street Complex" project.

46. Mr TSANG Kin-shing of Eastern DC requested the Administration to explain why there was a resources problem in implementing all the 74 outstanding ex-MC projects and to explain on what areas that the Administration had spent its revenue from rates.

47. Mr TSANG Hin-keung of Yuen Long DC pointed out that the "Swimming Pool Complex Kam Tin" project had been upgraded to Category I by ProRC and it was unacceptable that the project had now been put under further review.

48. Mr YIU Ka-chun of Sha Tin DC expressed support for the suggestion that the Administration should draw up a timetable for the implementation of the 74 outstanding ex-MC projects so that DCs, at least, would know the tentative schedules for implementation of these projects.

49. Mr Stephen CHAN of C&WDC pointed out that the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services had departed from her predecessor's established practice of holding regular meetings with the chairmen of the cultural, recreational and sports services committees of the respective DCs. He and Ms CHENG Lai-king both urged the Administration to expedite the implementation of the "Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park" as its planning had commenced since the 90s. Ms CHENG suggested that the implementation of the project should start in 2006.

50. DDLCS(A) gave the following response to the above concerns raised by DC representatives –

- (a) the Administration would take into consideration the comments on the need to improve the present consultation process with DCs;
- (b) should FEHD decide not to proceed with the "Tung Chau Street Complex" project, LCSD would explore alternative ways of providing LCS facilities at the same site; and
- (c) subject to members' views, the Administration could provide a tentative timetable which would show that, each year, the Administration would submit funding applications for some of the 74 ex-MC projects where the needs were justified under each of the next three RAE.

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51. Project Director 3 pointed out that the Architectural Services Department had resorted to various ways to expedite the implementation of the the “Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park” project, such as by engaging a consultant even before the relevant RAE procedures commenced, and, as a result, the project had been advanced to start in March 2009 instead of August 2009. He added that the Administration would make effort to further expedite the implementation of the project if possible.

Clerk

52. As proposed by Mr Albert CHAN, members agreed to make the following arrangements –

- (a) the Chairman should write to the Chief Executive expressing members’ dissatisfaction with the delay in the implementation of the outstanding ex-MC projects and with the late commencement dates of the construction of the 25 priority projects;
- (b) the Secretary for Home Affairs and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury should be invited to attend the next meeting; and
- (c) representatives of DCs would also be invited to attend the next meeting to express views on the priority list of the 74 projects under review to be drawn up by the Administration.

53. Members agreed that the next meeting be held on 28 September 2005 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

[Post-meeting note : at the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the meeting scheduled for 28 September 2005 was re-scheduled to 31 October 2005 at 4:30 pm.]

54. The meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
31 October 2005